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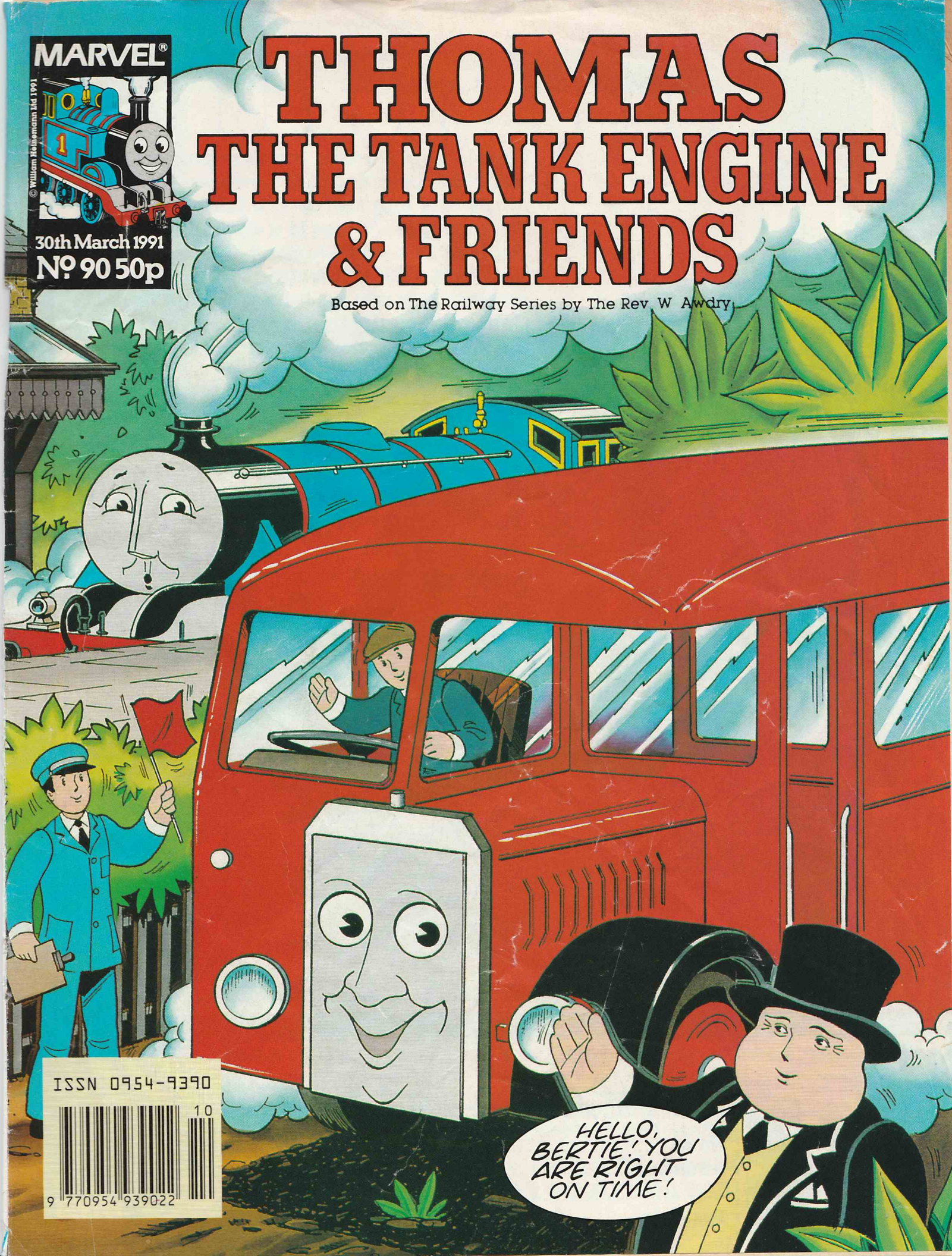
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry



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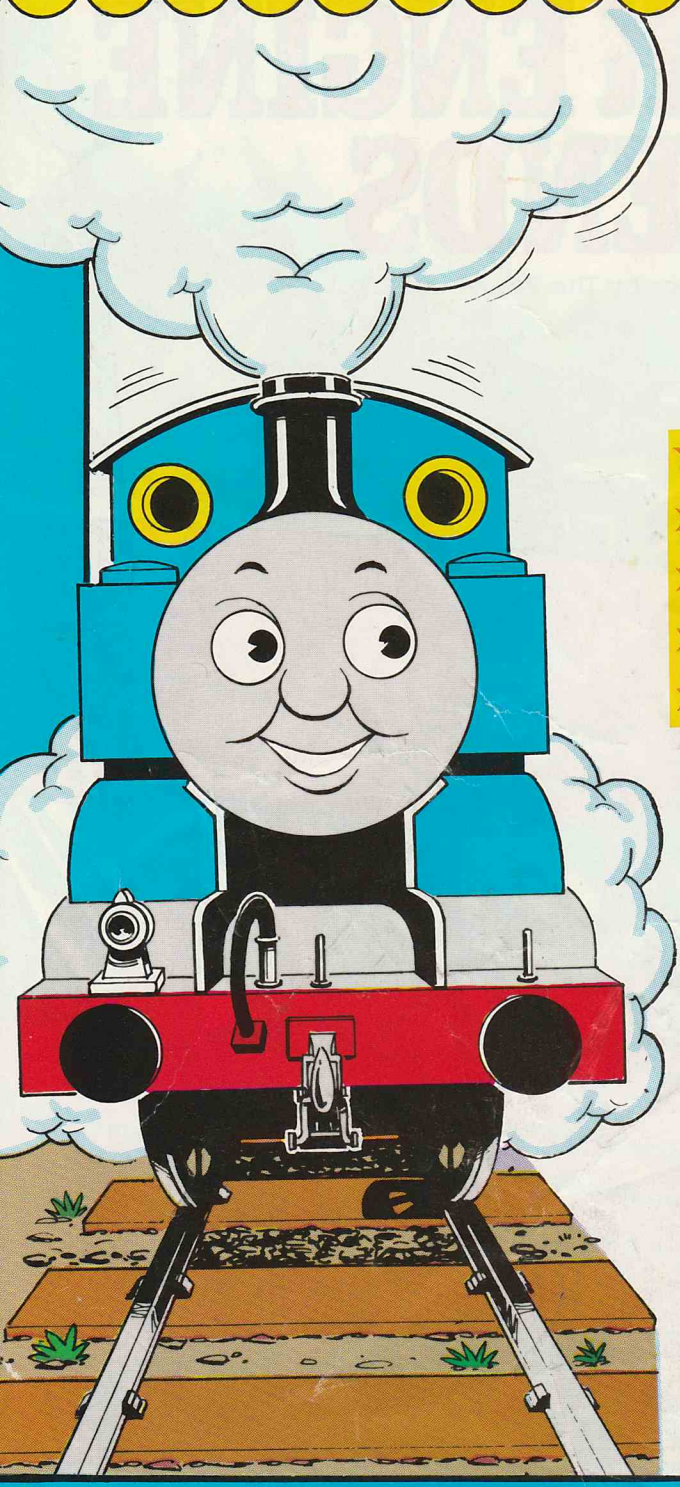
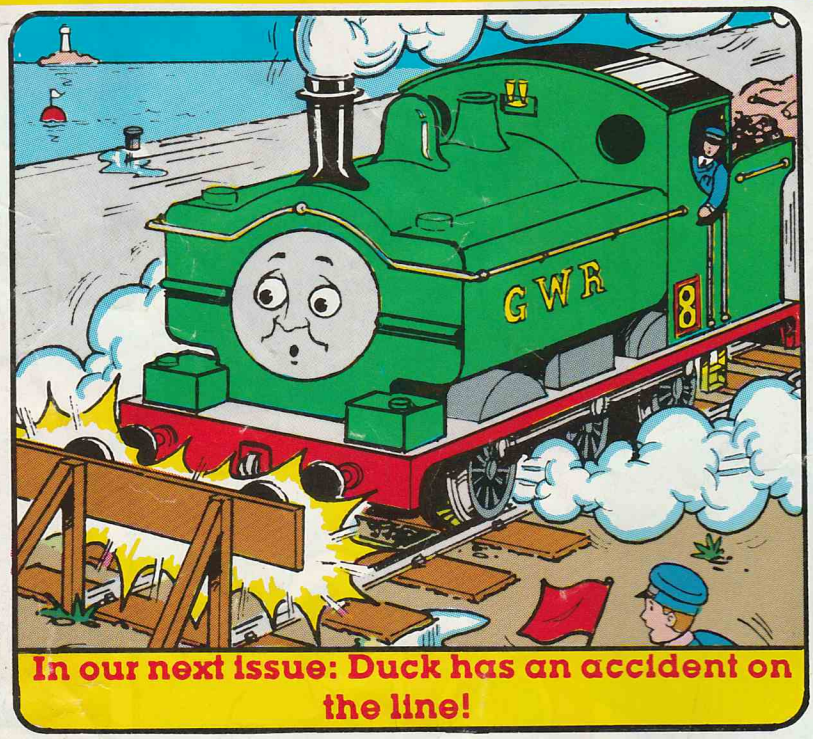
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Gordon is a very proud and noble Express Engine! However, there are many fine engines on the Island of Sodor! For example, James is a very splendid red Engine! One day Gordon tried to prove that he was the Fat Controller's favourite engine! You can find out what the Fat Controller really thought when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

Don't miss our next issue (91) of Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends for your splendid notebook and pencil gift!



In our next issue: Duck has an accident on the line!

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode..... **Date of birth**.....

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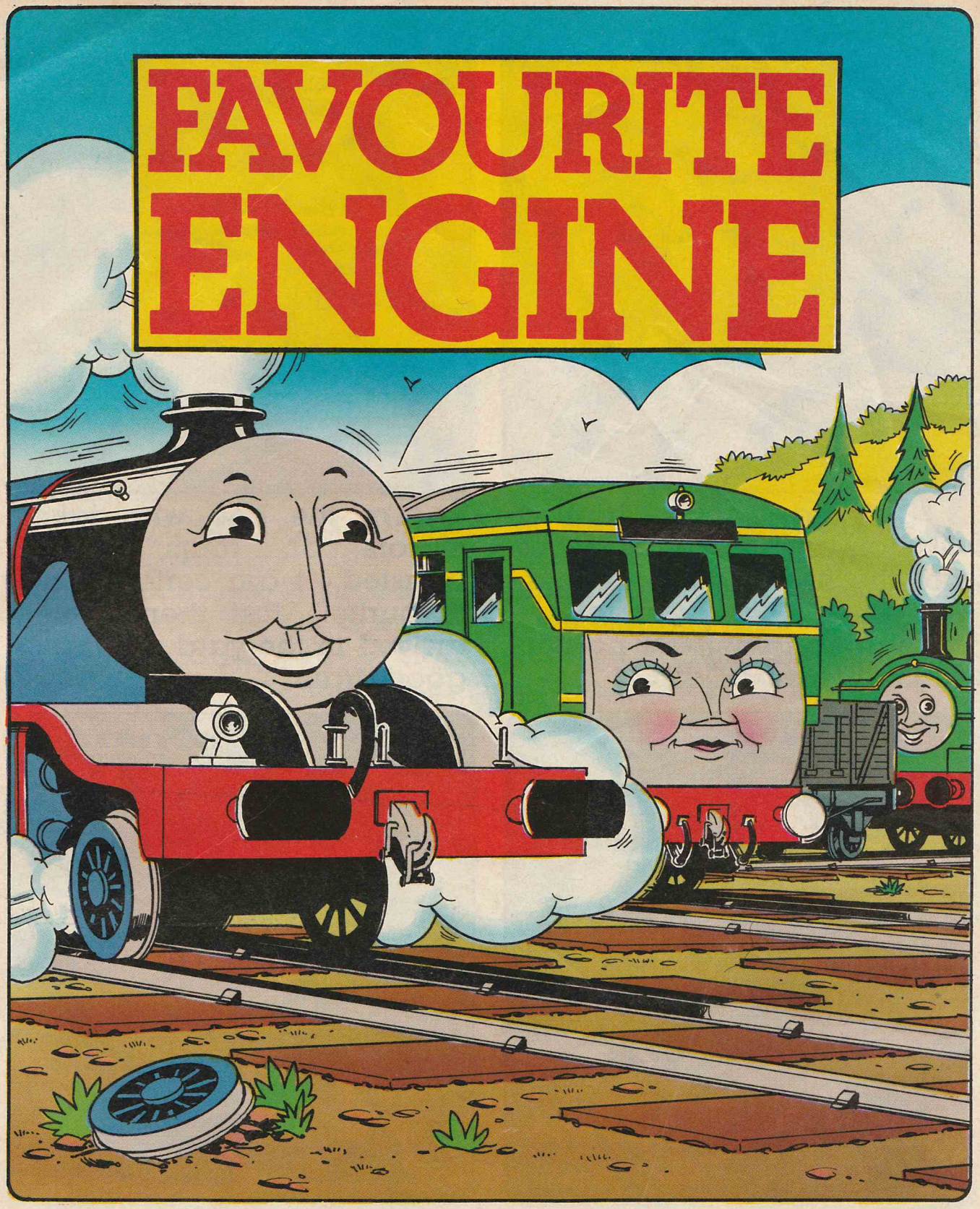
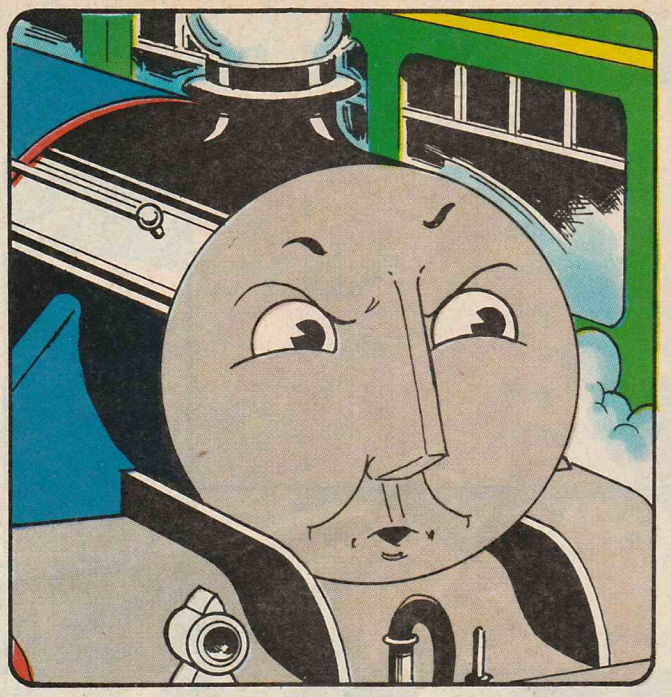
ABC

A listen and look story!

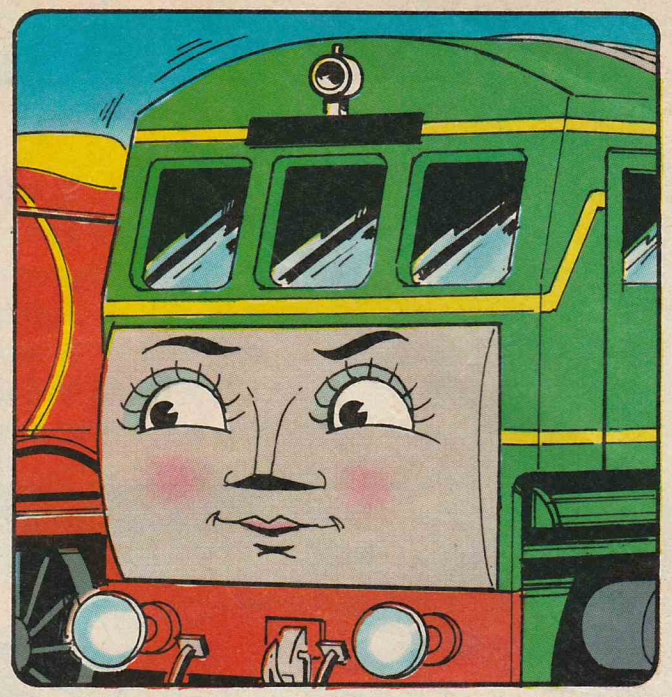


1. It was a fine Spring day. Gordon and Daisy were in the yard. "Duck has gone to fetch my coaches," said Gordon. "You'll just have to wait for your coaches, Daisy!"

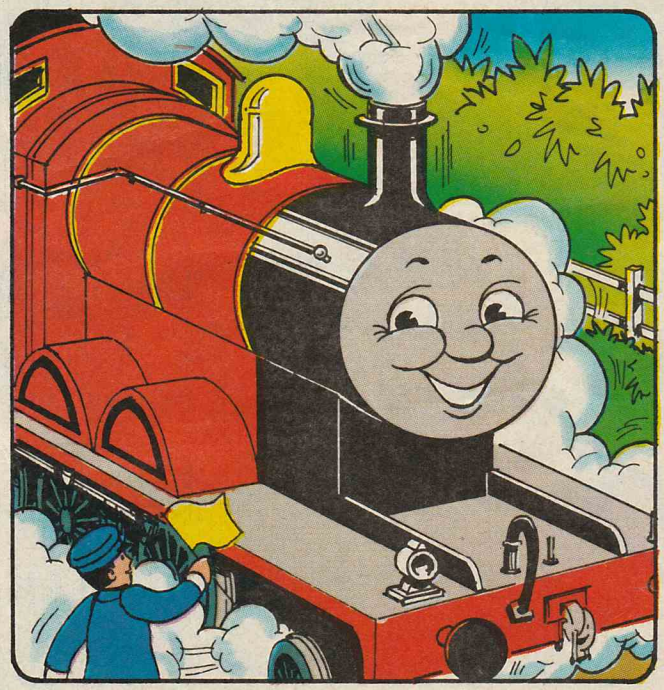
2. "Don't worry about me," said Daisy. "I'm not going to be needing any dirty old coaches. My passengers are much more comfortable riding on my well-sprung seats!"



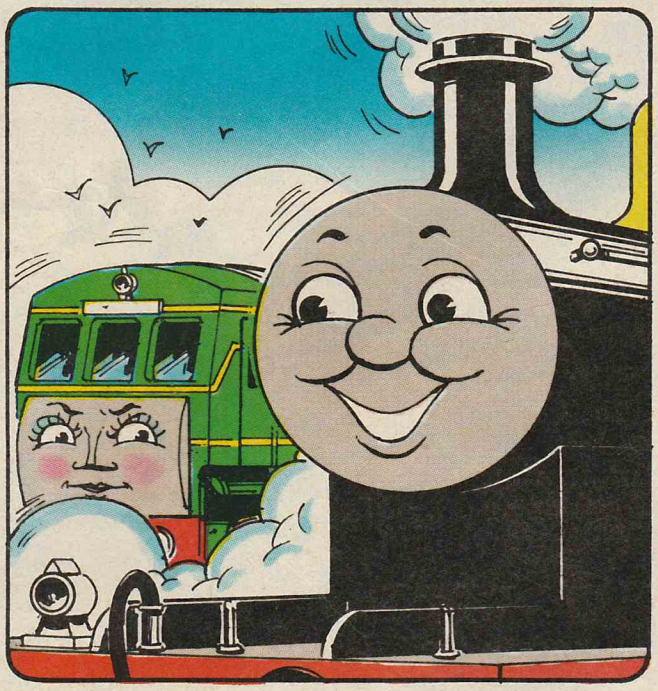
3. "Dirty old coaches!" replied Gordon crossly. "My coaches are the finest! Not only that, I'm the Fat Controller's favourite engine!" "Oh no, you are not!" hissed Daisy.



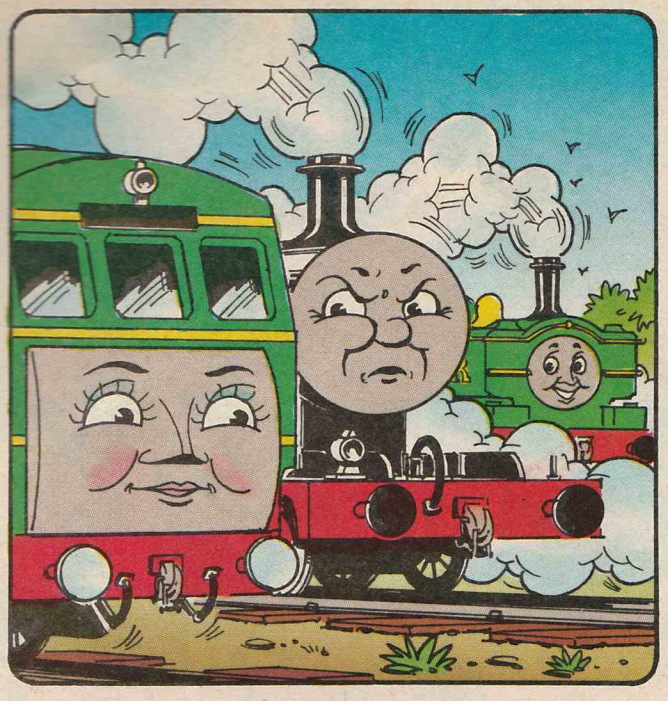
4. "I'm the one who takes visitors on tours," Daisy boasted. "I am certainly his favourite!" Just then James arrived in the yard pulling a goods train.



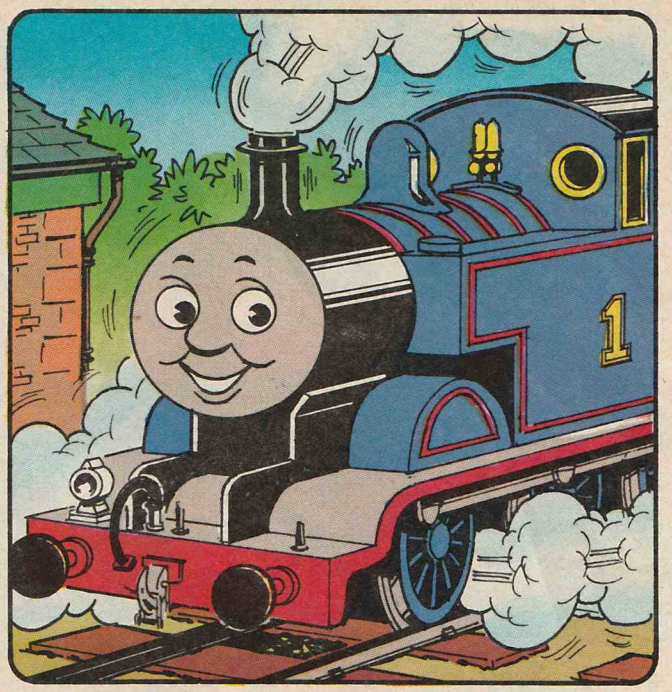
5. "Pip! Peep!" James whistled. "You're both wrong! I am the Fat Controller's favourite engine!" Daisy and Gordon laughed. "What makes you think that?" asked Gordon.



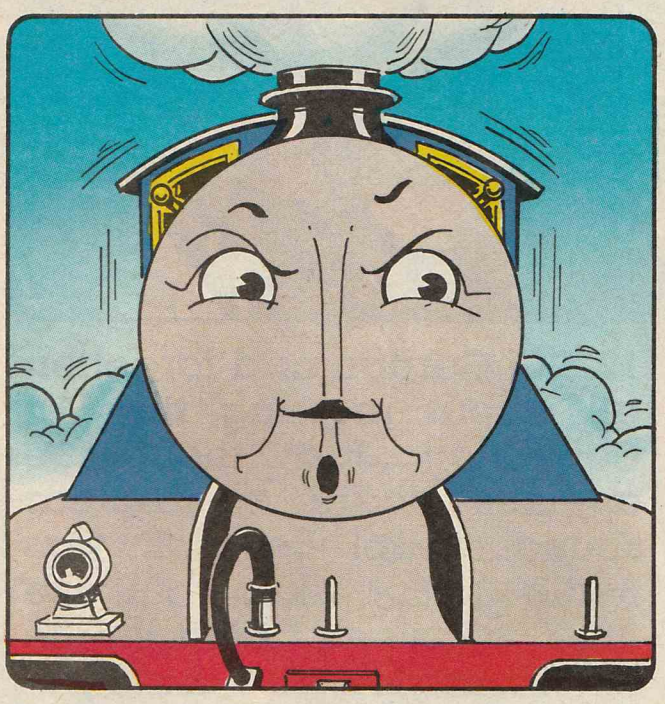
6. "By my splendid red coat, of course," answered James. "I am the only engine on the Fat Controller's railway who has a red coat. I **must** be his favourite engine!"



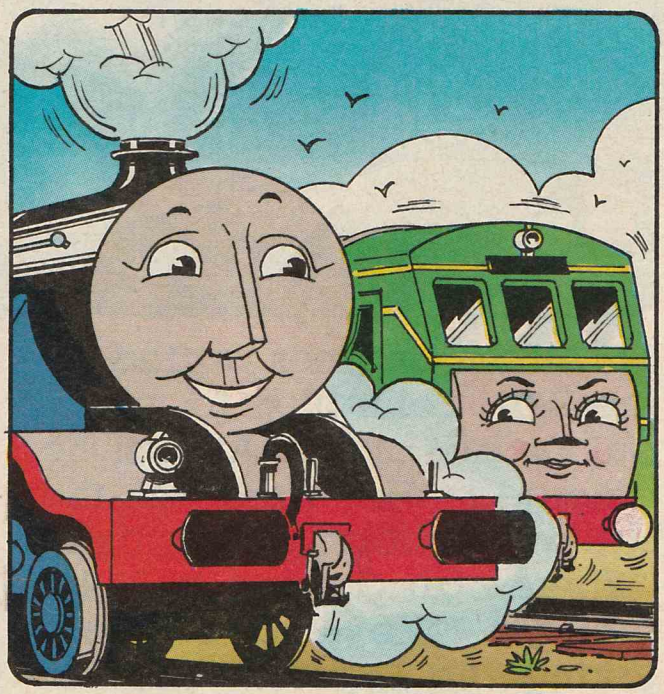
7. "Nonsense," said Daisy. "Red is a warning colour. The Fat Controller probably thinks that you are dangerous!" "Why don't you all stop boasting?" interrupted Duck.



8. "I agree," said Thomas, who had just arrived. "After all, any engine who is given his very own branch line must certainly be the Fat Controller's favourite engine!"



9. All of the engines began grumbling and letting off steam at once. "Be quiet!" shouted Gordon, over all the noise. "We shall settle this matter once and for all!"



10. "Soon the Fat Controller will come out of his office. Then, whoever he chooses to travel with will be his favourite engine," continued Gordon.

11. All the engines waited for the Fat Controller to come out of his office. At last he emerged. He went to the station platform and waited. "Where can Gordon be?" he thought. "He knows I am taking the Express!" The Fat Controller was most annoyed. "I have a very important meeting on the mainland to attend!"

12. But Gordon had forgotten all about meeting the Fat Controller! Just then, the engines heard a familiar sound. Beep! Beep! It was Bertie the Bus. "I know, I'll take the bus instead," thought the Fat Controller. And that's just what he did! "You silly engines," sighed Duck. "The Fat Controller hasn't any favourite engines after all!"

THE END

In our next issue: Duck and the heavy trucks!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke to tell James? If so, then why not send it to him at the address shown on the letters page?! The best jokes we receive will be printed in some of our future issues!

How do you know when a fridge is angry?
When it loses it's cool!
David, aged 6.

Where do American cows come from?
Moo York!
Anitta, aged 5.

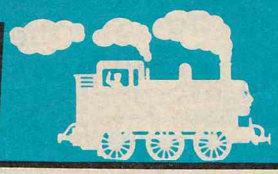
Who gets the most kicks out of his job?
A footballer!
Alan, aged 6.

What's white and goes up?
A stupid snowflake!
Adrian, aged 5.

How do you keep young dogs quiet?
With hush puppies!
James, aged 4.

Why does a glow-worm glow?
Because it eats light meals!
Gary, aged 5.

How do rabbits travel?
By hareplane!
Lorraine, aged 4.



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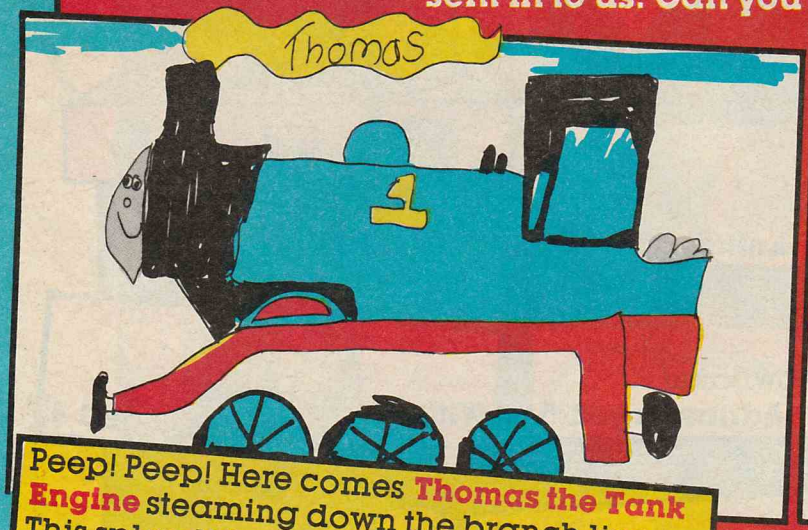
Signature ..... *Date* .....

Please return form and payment to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Poster Magazine Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

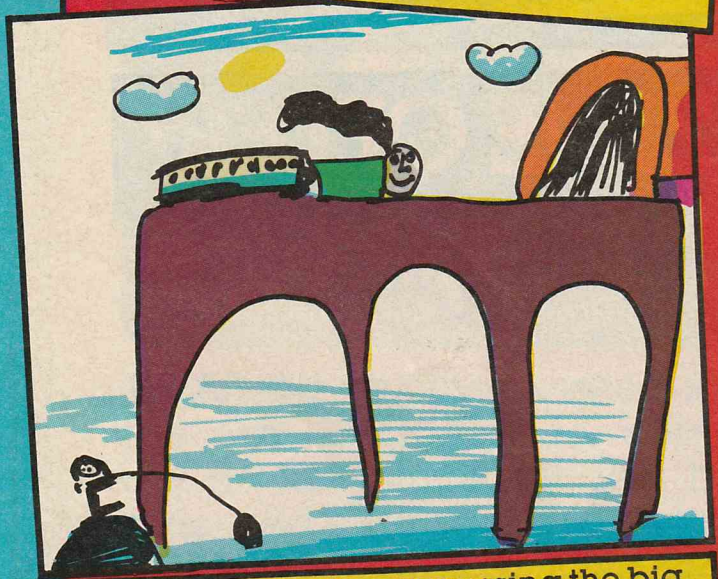
YOUR DRAWINGS for the Fat Controller

Here are some of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in to us. Can you see your picture?

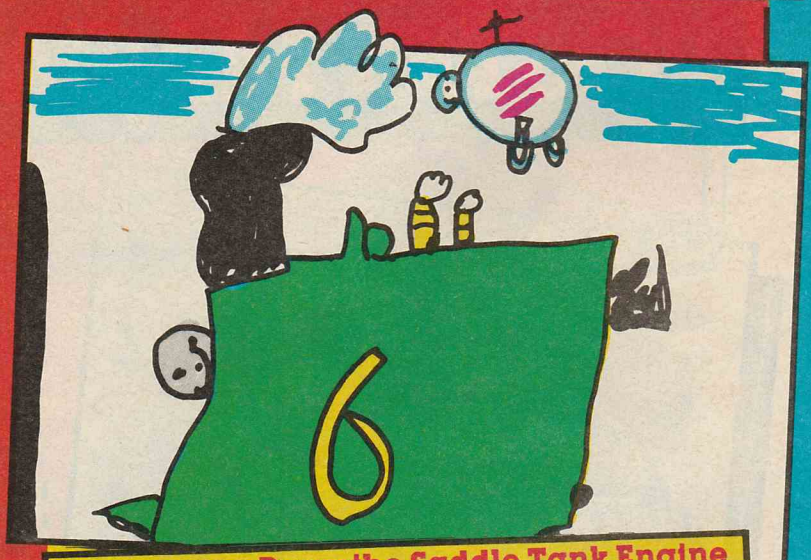


Peep! Peep! Here comes **Thomas the Tank Engine** steaming down the branch line. This splendid picture was sent in by **Colin**, aged 2, from Liverpool.

Here is a splendid picture of Thomas, James and Percy waiting by the railway sidings. This colourful picture was sent by **Simon Farmer**, aged 6.



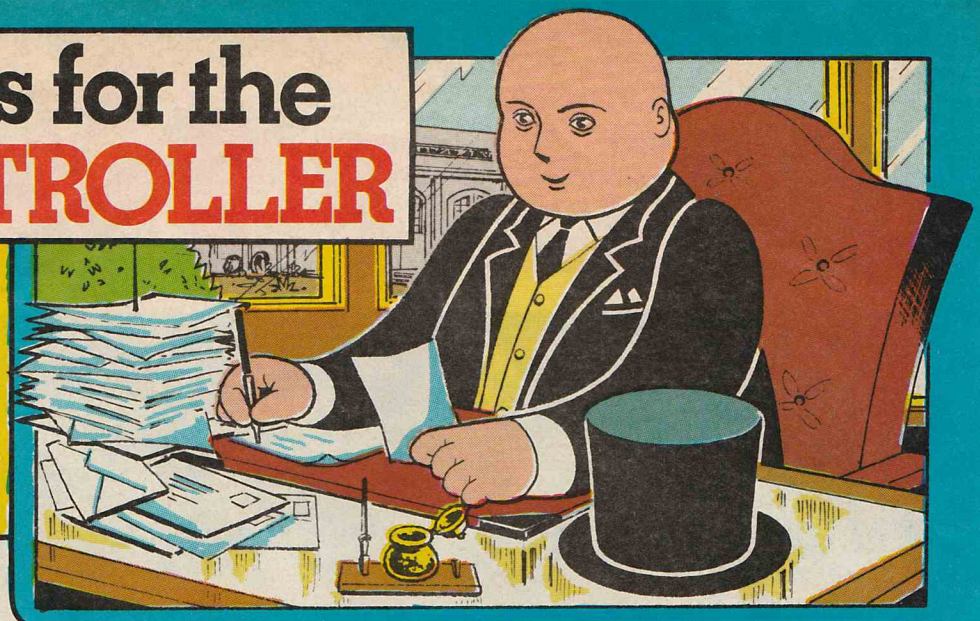
Here is a picture of Henry crossing the big viaduct! Can you also see the fisherman below? This super drawing was sent in by **Adam Dance**, aged 5.



Can you see **Percy the Saddle Tank Engine** steaming towards the tunnel. He is racing with his good friend, **Harold the Helicopter**! This exciting picture was carefully drawn by **Richard Funnell**, from Derby.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry, but we could only print a couple in this issue! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Picture Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
A little while ago, my daddy took me and my big sister for a walk. We went down a railway track near my house. The train at the station looked just like Thomas with a blue shiny coat of paint and a big yellow number 1 on his side.

Love from **Simon,** aged 5.

It's really interesting when you live near a railway line! There must be many splendid engines on your line! I bet you were very pleased to see an engine who looked like Thomas.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

A THOMAS RHYME!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have written a special poem for you with a little help from my mum! It reads:
Thomas is an Engine,
With a short and stumpy dome.
Thomas is an Engine,
Who is never on his own.
Thomas is an Engine,
Who is treated very well,
By both his carriages,
Annie and Clarabel.
Love from **Angie,** aged 3

Well done! *What a very splendid poem that is! It rhymes very well indeed! I'm sure all the engines would love to hear more of your poems!*

MY BREAKFAST BOWL!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have got a special bowl for my breakfast cereal. It has a picture of Henry the Green Engine inside it! In the morning, I eat all of my breakfast quickly so I can see Henry at the bottom of my dish!

Love from **Nicholas,** aged 4.

Upon my soul... *what a coincidence! My dear wife and I also have a pair of identical bowls with Henry on them that we use for* **our** *breakfast too!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Matthew Hawlam (33336), Naomi Cochrane (29627), Christopher Lowe (33748), Ricky Hitchin, Rosa Cadman, Heather McGeachy (30921), Sebastian Dales (18193), Gareth Stephens (30783), Gary Brewer (28302), Adam Turnisle (31236), Jason Kilbey, Christopher Pallet, Vincent Chalmers (31600), Andrew Martin, Andrew Collins, Michael James Main, Richard Eves, Shaun Hogg and Robert Hickling.

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Into the sto

Which engine can you see?

Is the signal up or down?

Point to the ducks!

Can you see any other animals?

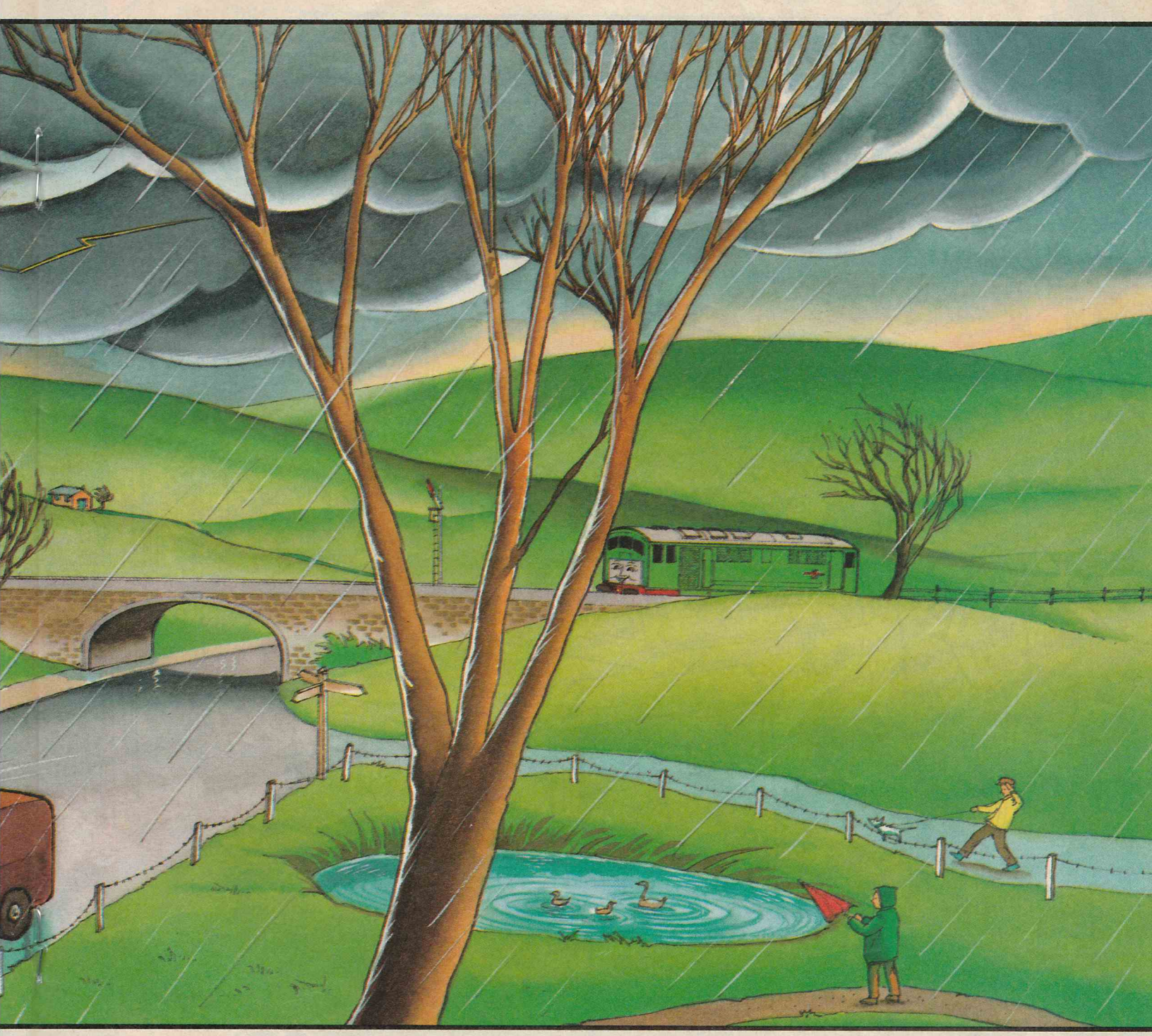
How many people can

What colour are the cl

Point to the lightning!

How many people are

orm!



e can you count?

ne clouds?

ing!

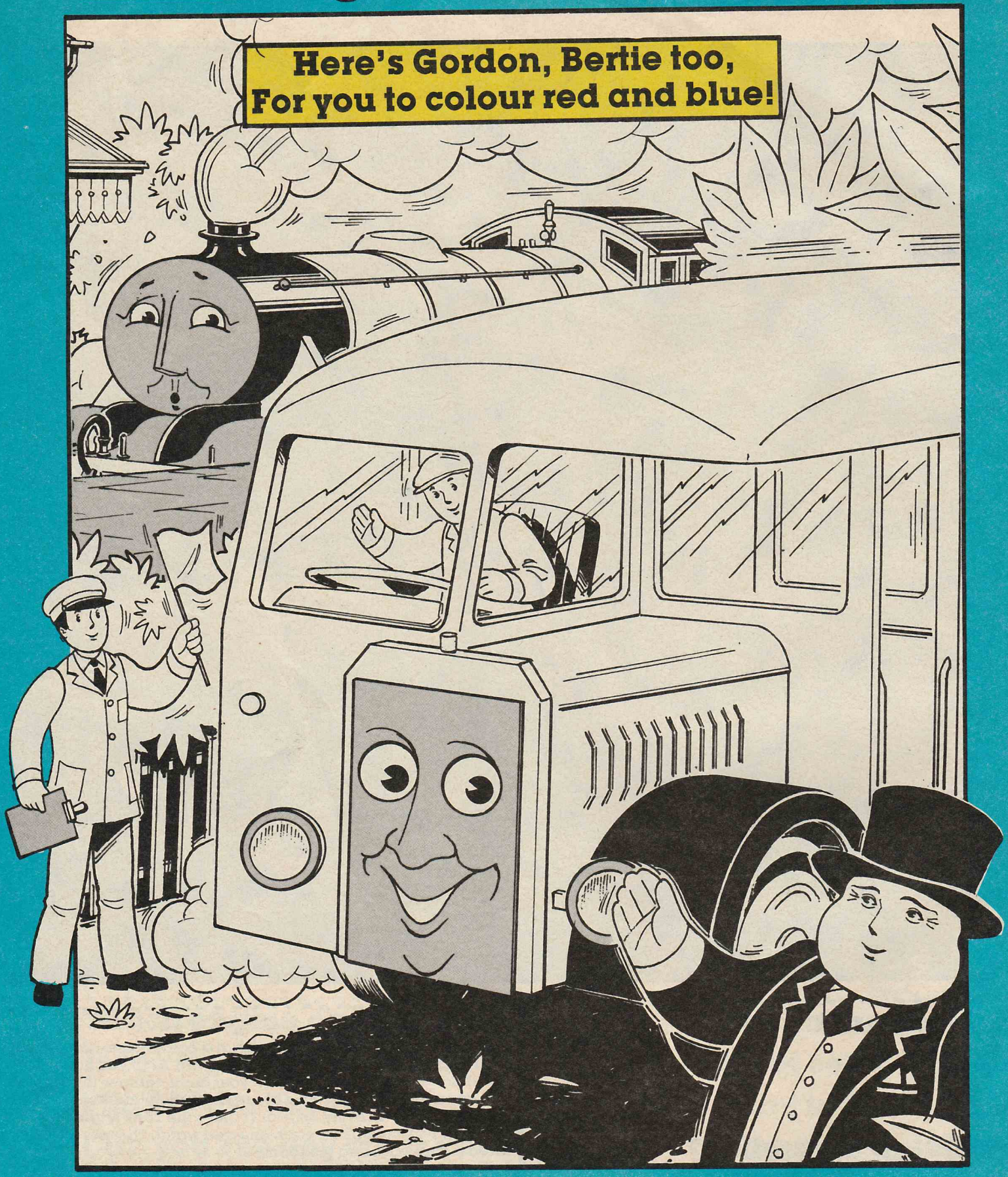
e are holding umbrellas?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

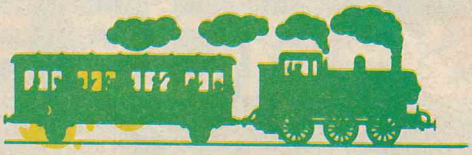
Next issue: Over the stream!

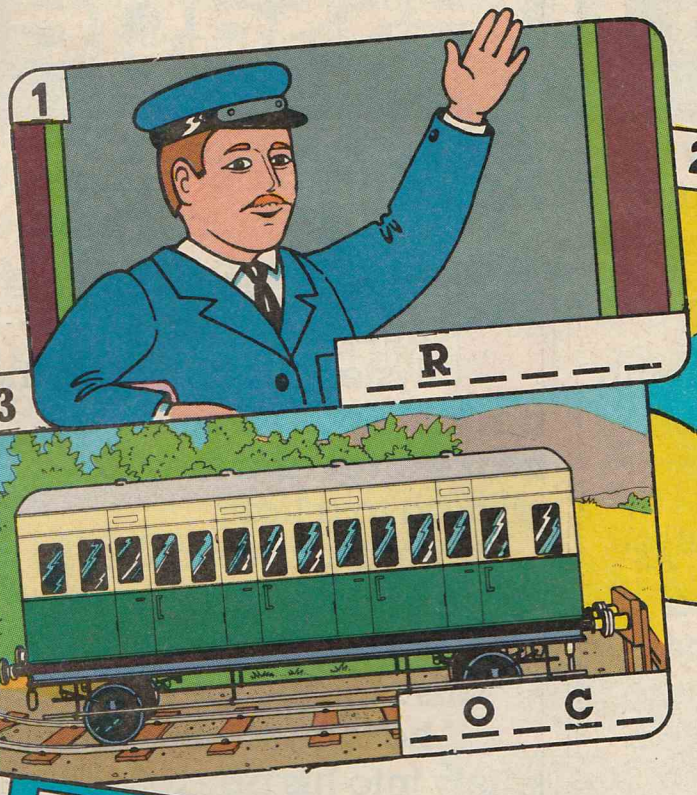
COLOURING TIME!

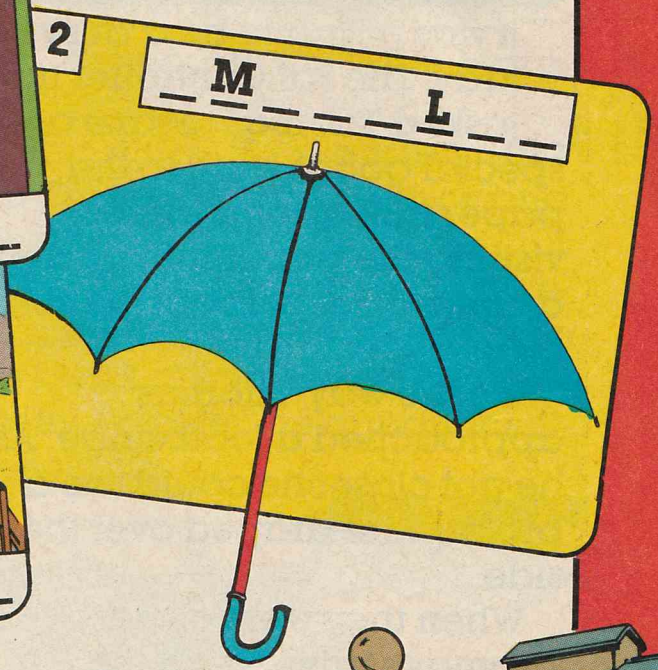


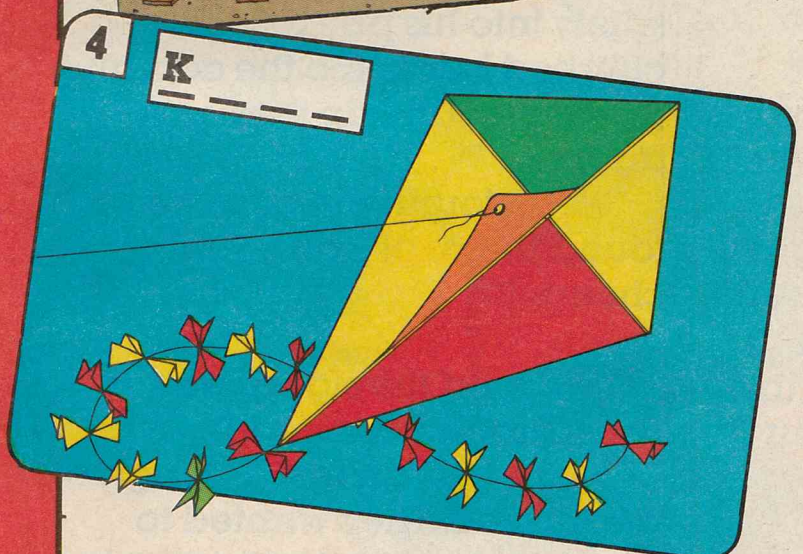
PUZZLE TIME

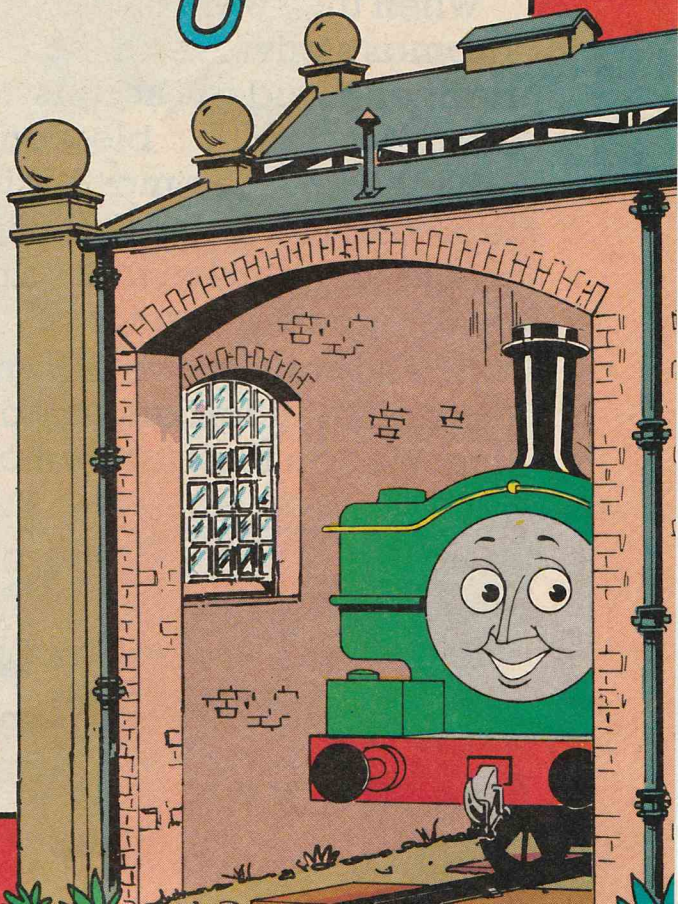
Here is a splendid word game for you! Take a look below at just some of the objects that Thomas often sees on his journey down the branch line! Write the name of each object along the dotted line! We've already positioned a couple of letters on the dotted lines to help you on your way! Then, putting the first letter of each word in the grid at the bottom of the page, you'll reveal the name of one of the Fat Controller's engines who is just about to emerge from the shed!











1	2	3	4

A read aloud story!

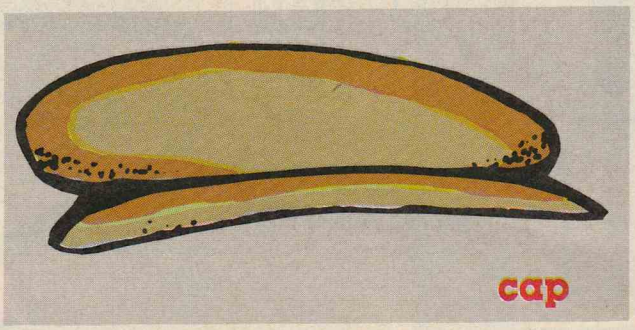
Thomas sends a message!

It was going to be a busy day! The Fat Controller had asked Thomas to take a special goods train to the paper mill. Thomas liked visiting the paper mill and with a cheery "Peep! Peep!" he set off.

On the way, Thomas approached a footbridge. As he got closer he could see a big banner draped over the side.

When they were closer, Thomas's driver read the banner aloud to Thomas. It read: 'My new cap blew off, onto the line!' Thomas's driver turned to the fireman. "Well, would you believe it? It's signed by Terence the Tractor's driver!"

"His hat must have blown right off his head and onto this line. We can look for it on our journey," said Thomas, excitedly.



cap

Further on down the line, Thomas's driver saw a mysterious object on the track. He pulled Thomas's brake lever and they slowly ground to a halt.

Thomas's driver climbed down onto the track and picked up a brown cloth cap.

"This must be the missing cap," he thought and put it safely into his pocket. He climbed back into the cab and they were soon on their way again.

"We've found the cap! We've found the cap!" sang Thomas cheerfully.

Beyond the signal box, Thomas noticed Terence and his driver working on the hillside. They wanted to give him his cap but he was too far away to hear their calls and whistles. Thomas gave one last whistle. "Peep! Peep!" but he was already running late

because of stopping to pick up the cap. Thomas had to keep on going to try and make up time.

When they arrived at the paper mill, Thomas's driver had an idea. He went away and returned with a long, wide sheet of paper, some paint and paintbrushes.

Thomas was puzzled, but he set off once again to return to the Main Station Yard.

As Thomas approached the hillside beyond the signal box he slowed down and finally stopped.

Thomas's driver tied the long sheet of paper onto Thomas's coal bunker. Once it was secured they moved along the line once more.

"Peep! Peep! Over here!" whistled Thomas, excitedly. Terence's driver turned towards the track and saw Thomas pulling a banner which read: YOUR CAP IS SAFE! CALL AT THE MAIN STATION!

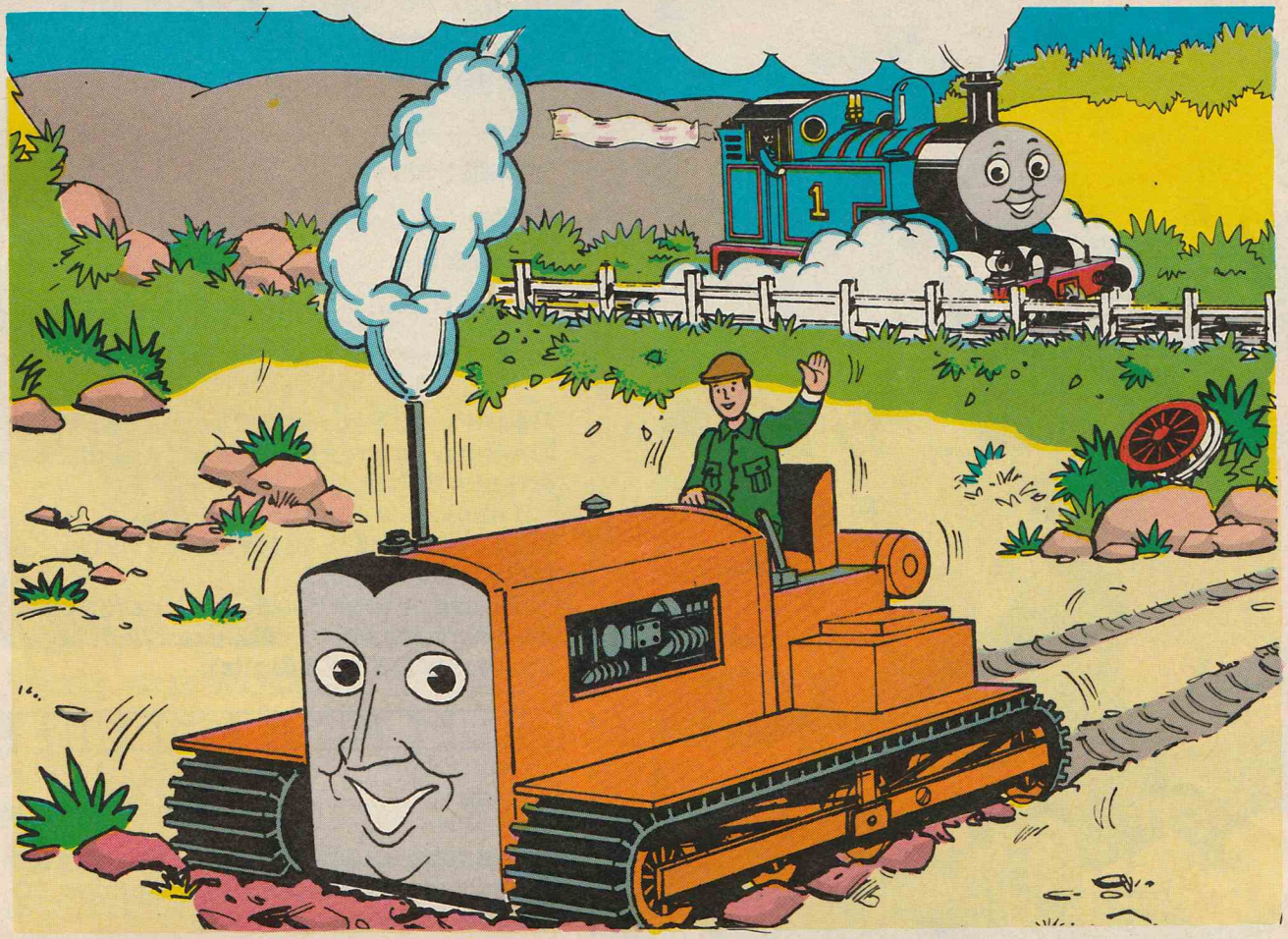
Terence's driver was very pleased.

Later that day, Terence's driver arrived at the Main Station to collect his cap.

"You acted very sensibly," the Fat Controller told Terence and his driver.

Terence's driver smiled as he placed his brown cap firmly on his head. "Thomas is a Really Useful Engine," he announced cheerfully.

THE END



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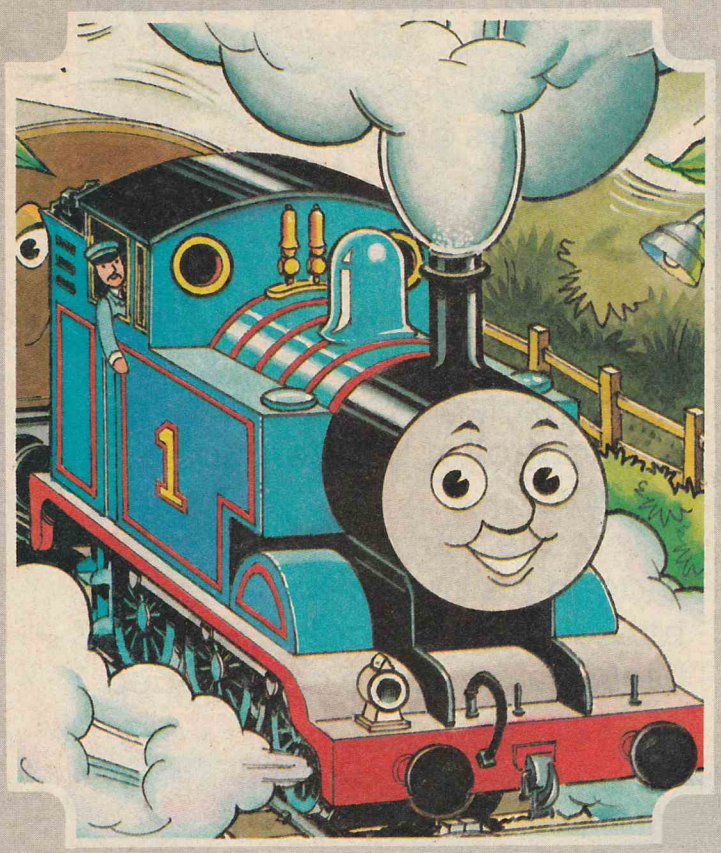

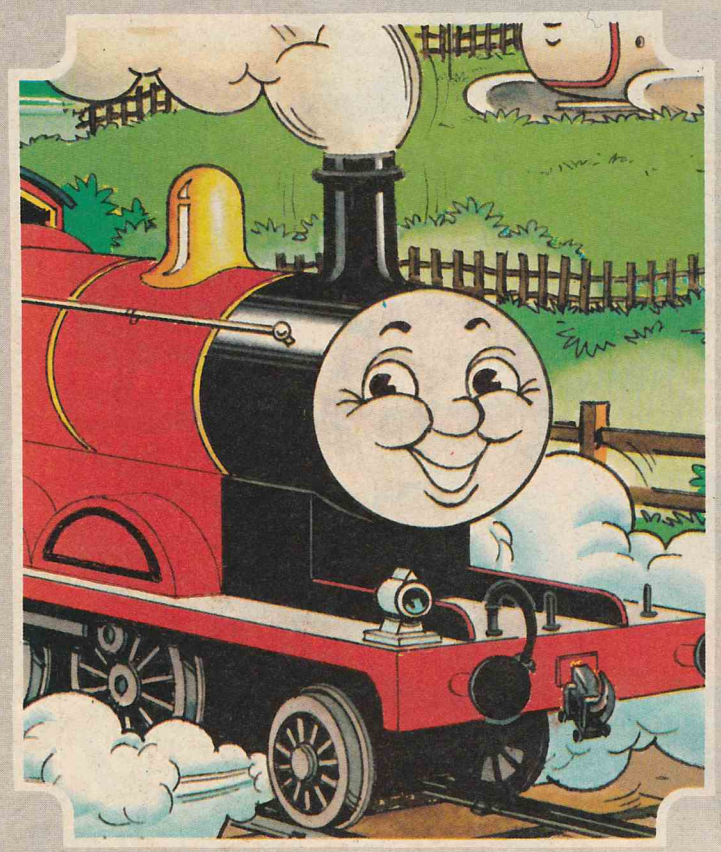

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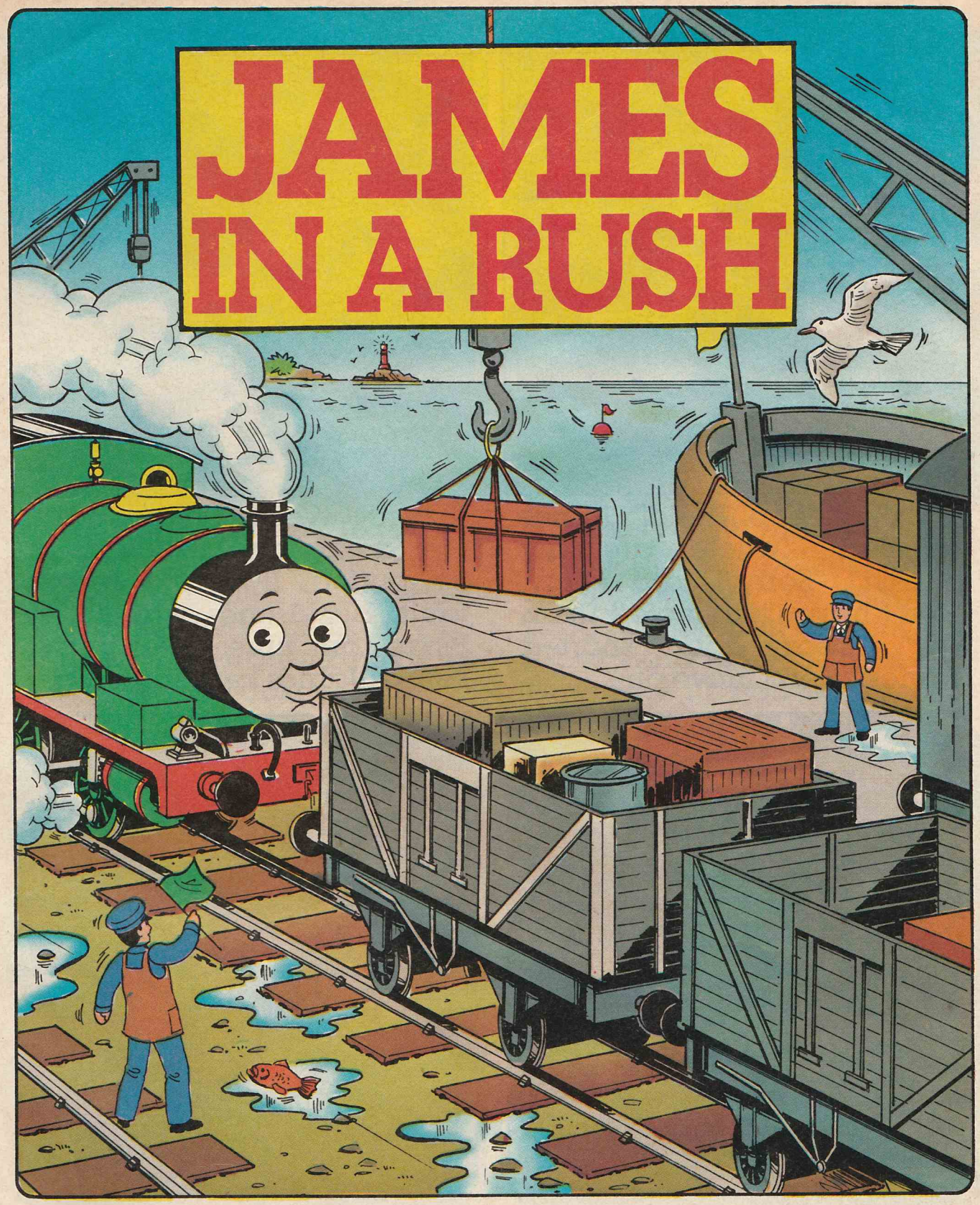
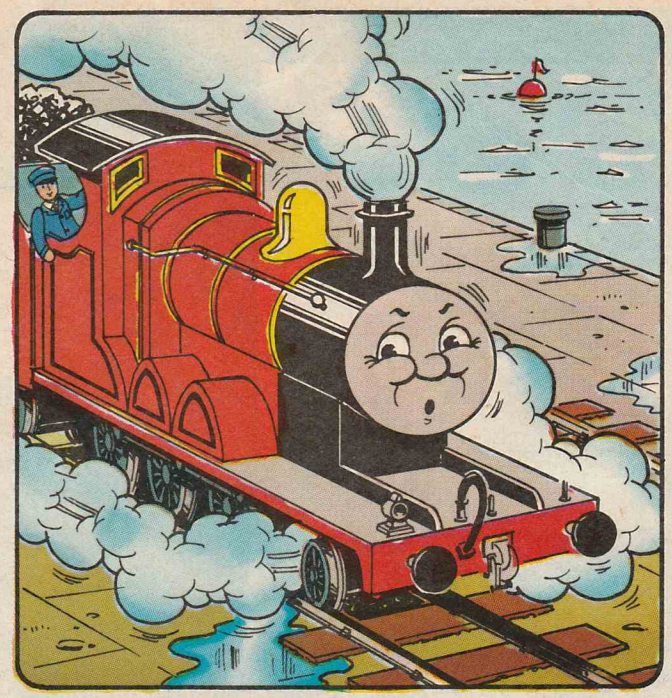
A listen and look story!

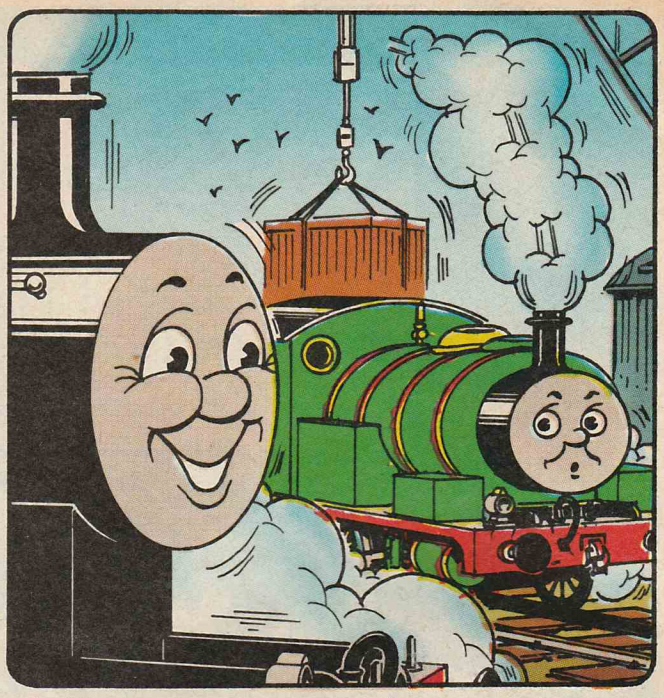


1. Percy was working in the Big Harbour Yard. A ship had just docked and her cargo was being unloaded. The two tall cranes on the dock were very busy, loading trucks.

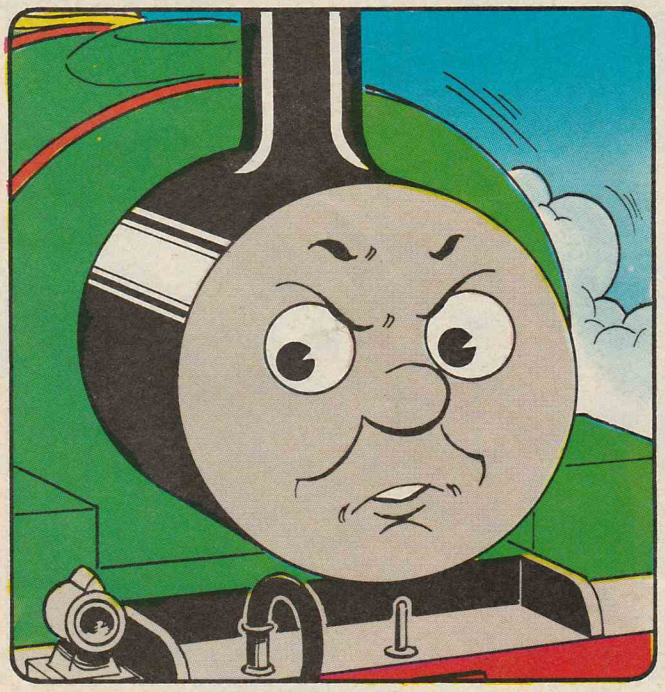
2. Percy's job was to shunt the trucks into place. He had to move quickly so as not to delay the cranes, but the loading was slow. James arrived to pull the train.



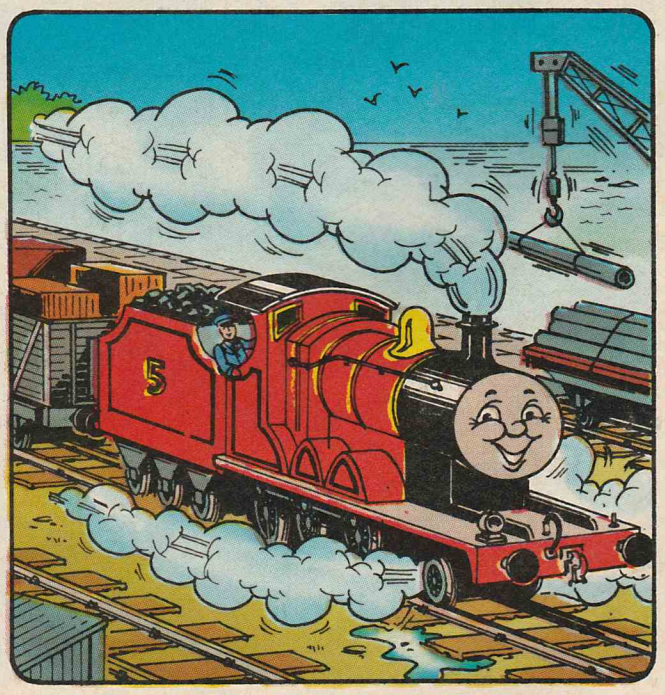
3. "Peep! Peep! Hullo!" James whistled. "Where are my trucks?" "Sorry," said Percy, "but I haven't collected them yet." "Deary me," snorted James. "Get a move on!"



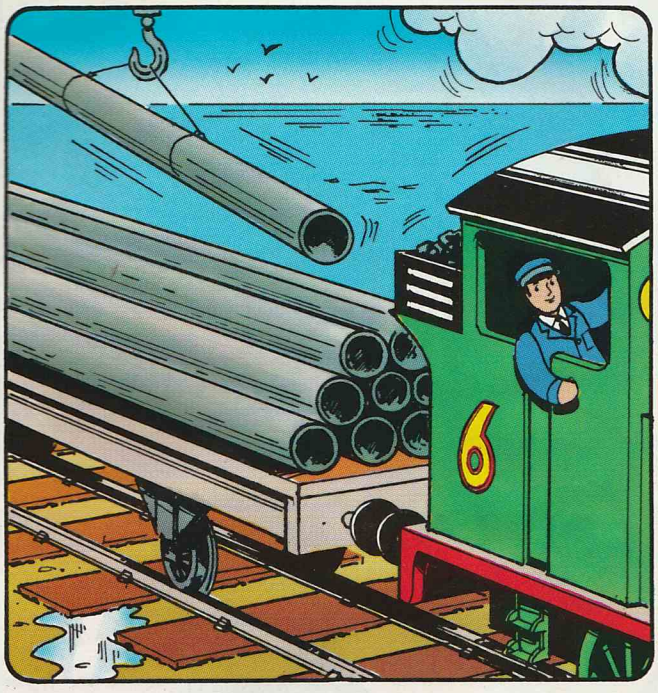
4. Percy was all steamed up. "I'm doing my best, James," he puffed. It wasn't Percy's fault, but James wanted to leave on time. "Hurry up, Percy!" James kept shouting.



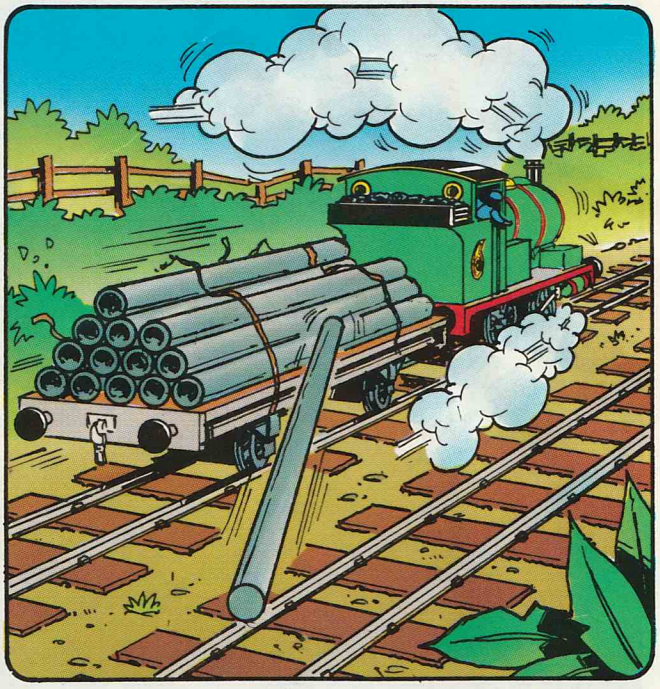
5. Percy didn't like being shouted at! "That must be the last truck?" said James. "I don't know," sighed Percy. "Wait a minute and I'll see if there are more to unload!"



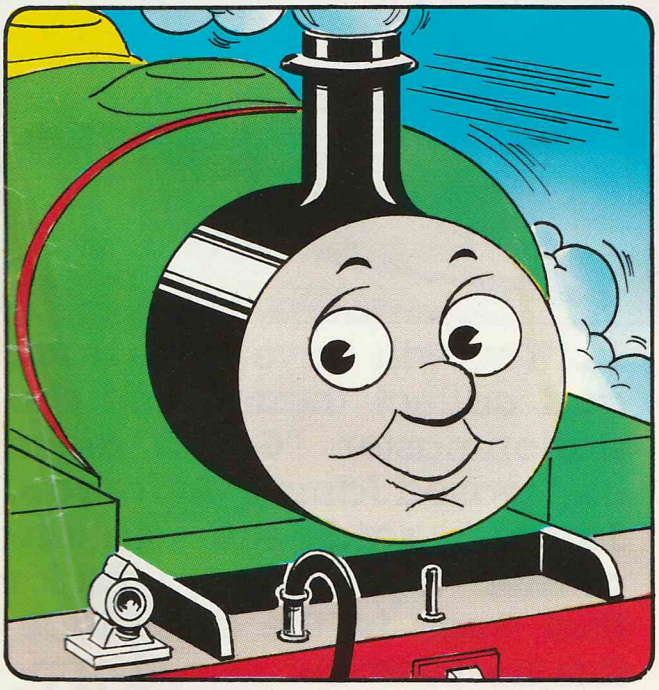
6. James was already coupled up. He gave a whistle and off he went, but the crane hadn't finished loading! It came up from the ship's hold with a batch of long pipes.



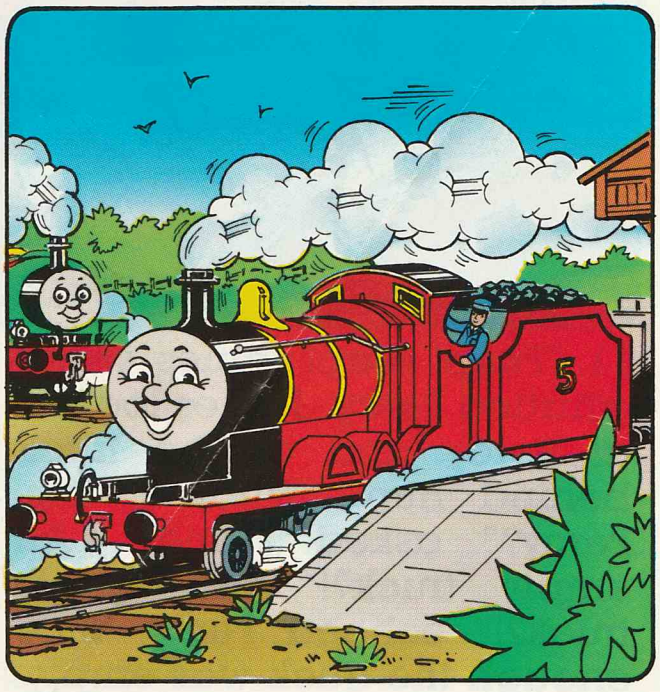
7. Percy hurried to fetch another flat truck. "Hurry! Hurry!" he called. "I shall take the pipes and catch up with James!" Down came the pipes onto the flat track.



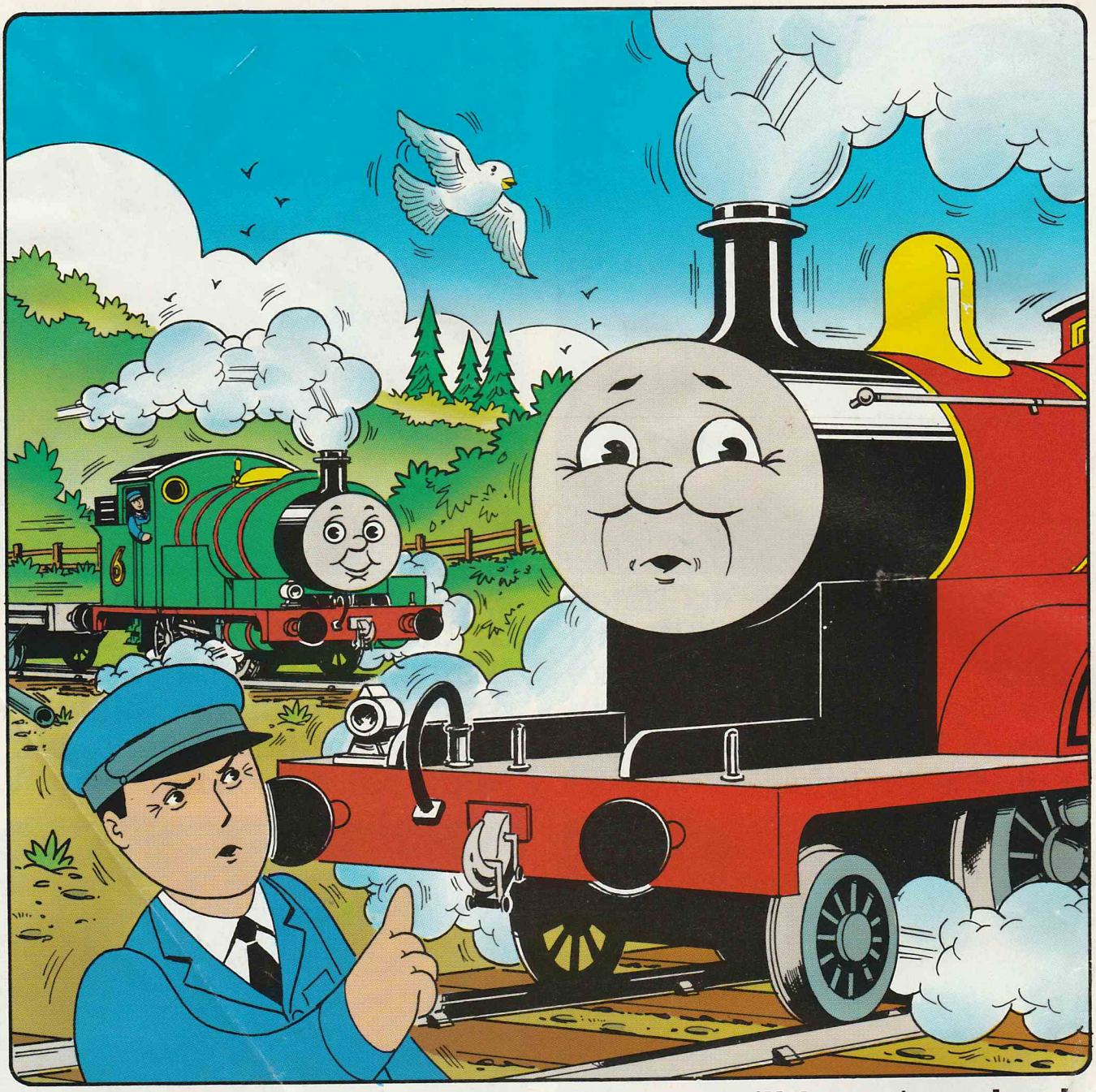
8. "Peep! Peep!" whistled Percy as he quickly pulled away. "Hurry! Hurry!" he eagerly sang. **Clunk! Clank!** went the pipes from time to time, but Percy took no notice.



9. "I'll show James how quickly I can go!" puffed Percy. **Clunk! Clank!** went the pipes as Percy could feel himself picking up speed and going faster and faster!



10. Soon Percy saw James and his train ahead, standing in the station. The pipes gave a final **Clunk!** as Percy put on a big burst of steam and came alongside James.



11. "Peep! Peep! James, wait!" whistled Percy. James looked at Percy and at the truck behind him. "What is this, Percy?" asked James. "An empty truck?!" "An empty truck?!" echoed Percy. Sure enough the truck was empty! Percy had left too soon and the pipes had not been properly tied on! One by one they had fallen off the truck!

12. "You will have to go back and collect them," said the stationmaster. "Get a move on," teased James. "As for you, James," said the stationmaster. "If you had waited for that truck in the first place, this never would have happened! In fact, you must wait right here until Percy returns with the pipes!" James didn't like this at all!

THE END

In our next issue: Percy and the Local!